

27. A composition comprising an isolated polynucleotide which encodes an hepatitis C virus (HCV) proteolytic polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an HCV NS3 domain protease or an HCV NS3 domain protease active truncation analog.

28. The composition of claim 27 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease comprises the sequence of SEQ ID No: 1.

29. The composition of claim 27 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease comprises the sequence of SEQ ID No: 63.

30. The composition of claim 27 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease comprises the sequence of SEQ ID No: 64.

31. The composition of claim 27 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease comprises the sequence of SEQ ID No: 65.

32. A composition comprising an isolated polynucleotide which encodes an hepatitis C virus (HCV) proteolytic polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises a fusion protein comprising a fusion partner fused to a HCV NS3 domain protease or to an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation analog.

33. The composition of claim 32 wherein said fusion partner comprises human superoxide dismutase.

34. The composition of claim 32 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 63.

35. The composition of claim 32 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 64.

36. The composition of claim 32 wherein said HCV NS3 domain protease or active truncation analog has a partial internal amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID No: 65.

37. An expression vector for producing an HCV proteolytic polypeptide in a host cell, wherein said vector comprises a polynucleotide encoding said HCV proteolytic polypeptide comprises an HCV NS3 domain protease or an active HCV NS3 domain protease truncation